

NOTES

ARISTIDA DESMANTHA (POACEAE), NEW TO MISSOURI.—*Aristida desmantha* Trin. & Rupr. is an annual grass occurring on dry, sandy soil in Texas, Louisiana, Illinois, and Nebraska (Hitchcock 1951; Mohlenbrock 1973; Gould 1975; Allen 1992). During recent surveys for *Cyperus grayoides* Mohlenbrock in southeastern Missouri, a population of *Aristida desmantha* was discovered in Scott County.

Voucher specimens: U.S.A. MISSOURI. Scott Co.: ca. 1 mi E of the intersection of Rt. H and Co. Rd. 504; last field on north side of Co. Rd. 504 before intersection with Co. Rd. 505; T28N, R14E, SW1/4 of SE1/4 of SE1/4 of Sec. 28, 15 Oct 1992, *McKenzie* 1165 (LSU, MO, NMC, UMO); same location, 7 Sep 1993, *McKenzie* 1286 with Sherry Holmes and John Logan (MO).

Habitat at the discovery site is a dry, remnant sand prairie with recent history of disturbance. The deep, sandy soil is eolian (i.e., wind deposited) in origin (Saucier 1978; Bridges & Orzell 1989), and has been classified as belonging to the Scotco Association (Festervand 1981; Carter & Bryson 1991). Such habitats in southeastern Missouri are remnants of what were formerly more extensive sand prairies as classified by Nelson (1985). These sand prairies were apparently derived from sand dune formations associated with deposition of Wisconsinan Stage glacial outwash by the Mississippi-Missouri rivers east and west of Crowley's Ridge in southeastern Missouri and northeastern Arkansas (Saucier 1978). Most remaining tracts of remnant sand prairies in the region have been greatly altered by human activities (Carter & Bryson 1991). At the discovery site, *Aristida desmantha* was associated with *Andropogon ternarius* Michx., *Digitaria cognata* (Schultes) Pilger, *Diodia teres* Walt. var. *teres*, *Froelichia gracilis* (Hook.) Moq., *Cyperus grayoides*, *Opuntia humifusa* Raf. var. *humifusa*, and *Triplasis purpurea* (Walt.) Chapman. During the 7 Sep 1993 visit, tens of thousands of plants were estimated to occur at the site. Searches in similar, adjacent habitat have failed to produce any additional populations. The Scott County site is ca. 320 km SSW of the nearest locality in west central Illinois. While *Aristida desmantha* is currently known only from the discovery site, further surveys in appropriate sand prairie habitat in southeastern Missouri are likely to yield additional records. The species should be considered as a candidate for state-endangered status following guidelines established by the Missouri Department of Conservation (1992).

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